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Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011

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Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011

- Approximately half of all current marriages are expected to end in divorce (Raley & Bumpass 2003).
- In 2011, the divorce rate in the U.S. was 19.4. That is, roughly 19 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- In any given year, there are more marriages than divorces in the U.S.; there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in 2011.¹

¹ The U.S. divorce rate = [(number of women divorced in the past 12 months) / (number of women divorced in the past 12 months + number of currently married women)] * 1000

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rate, 2011

- In Alaska, roughly 28 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- In Hawaii, approximately 13 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- For a ranking table with all states, [click here](#).

State Changes in Ranking, 2008 to 2011

- From 2008 to 2011, state's divorce rates changed little. Indeed, the U.S. divorce rate has remained stable at approximately 19.
- The two states with the largest increases in the divorce rate are New Hampshire and New Mexico. The two states with the largest decreases in the divorce rate are Washington, DC and Wyoming.
 - New Hampshire moved from 42nd to 5th highest ranking (17 to 25).
 - New Mexico moved from 27th to 6th highest ranking (20 to 25).
 - Washington, DC moved from 1st to 3rd highest ranking (35 to 26).
 - Wyoming moved from 2nd to 32nd highest ranking (27 to 19).

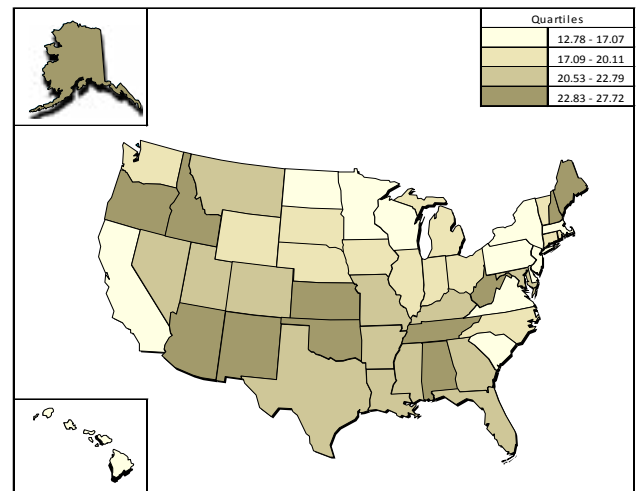
Five States with the Highest and Lowest Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2011

Figure 3. Highest and Lowest Ratios of Marriage to Divorce

Ranking	State	Ratio
1	Hawaii	3.32
2	North Dakota	2.86
3	Utah	2.15
4	Wash, DC	2.15
5	Wyoming	2.11
	US	1.68
47	West Virginia	1.39
48	Oregon	1.38
49	Rhode Island	1.36
50	Alabama	1.32
51	New Hampshire	1.09

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

Figure 1. Geographic Variation of U.S. Divorce Rate Among States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

Figure 2. Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates

Ranking	State	TDR
1	Alaska	27.72
2	Alabama	27.57
3	Wash, DC	25.81
4	Tennessee	25.43
5	New Hampshire	25.32
	US	19.44
47	Minnesota	14.73
48	North Dakota	14.52
49	Wisconsin	14.41
50	New Jersey	14.33
51	Hawaii	12.78

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

- In 2011, there were many more marriages than divorces in Hawaii, approximately three marriages for every one divorce.
- In New Hampshire, there were approximately equal numbers of marriages and divorces in 2011. For every one marriage, there was one divorce in 2011.
- For a ranking table with all the states, [click here](#).

State Changes in Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2008 to 2011

- The majority of states (36) experienced declines in the ratio of marriages to divorces from 2008 to 2011, indicating fewer marriages occurring per every one divorce.
- Hawaii, in particular, experienced the greatest change in the ratio, increasing from 2.28 in 2008 to 3.32 in 2011.

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Figure 4. Divorce Rate Per 1,000 Married Women by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2011

Rank	State	Divorce Rate	MOE
1	Alaska	27.72	+/- 8.12
2	Alabama	27.57	+/- 2.53
3	Washington, DC	25.81	+/- 10.12
4	Tennessee	25.43	+/- 2.83
5	New Hampshire	25.32	+/- 5.29
6	New Mexico	25.20	+/- 4.53
7	West Virginia	25.07	+/- 4.00
8	Oklahoma	24.11	+/- 2.49
9	Arizona	23.92	+/- 2.83
10	Idaho	23.66	+/- 4.73
11	Maine	23.39	+/- 4.58
12	Oregon	22.87	+/- 3.18
13	Kansas	22.83	+/- 3.40
14	Montana	22.79	+/- 5.36
15	Nevada	22.72	+/- 4.43
16	Texas	22.72	+/- 1.43
17	Mississippi	22.12	+/- 3.87
18	Georgia	21.85	+/- 2.28
19	Arkansas	21.83	+/- 3.25
20	Maryland	21.77	+/- 2.53
21	Colorado	21.55	+/- 2.45
22	Missouri	21.52	+/- 1.91
23	Utah	21.44	+/- 3.37
24	Kentucky	20.99	+/- 2.18
25	Louisiana	20.96	+/- 2.68
26	Florida	20.53	+/- 1.93
27	Indiana	20.11	+/- 1.74
28	Washington	20.05	+/- 1.80
29	Ohio	19.52	+/- 1.54
30	Michigan	19.45	+/- 1.26
	US	19.44	+/- 0.34
31	North Carolina	19.27	+/- 2.17
32	Wyoming	18.94	+/- 5.59
33	South Dakota	18.72	+/- 5.13
34	Rhode Island	18.27	+/- 5.13
35	Nebraska	18.12	+/- 3.37
36	Connecticut	18.11	+/- 2.42
37	Vermont	18.05	+/- 6.31
38	Iowa	17.14	+/- 2.65
39	Illinois	17.09	+/- 1.26
40	Virginia	17.07	+/- 1.62
41	South Carolina	17.02	+/- 2.28
42	California	16.74	+/- 0.87
43	New York	16.59	+/- 1.03
44	Delaware	16.08	+/- 3.86
45	Pennsylvania	15.60	+/- 1.08
46	Massachusetts	15.32	+/- 1.79
47	Minnesota	14.73	+/- 1.70
48	North Dakota	14.52	+/- 4.04
49	Wisconsin	14.41	+/- 1.56
50	New Jersey	14.33	+/- 1.43
51	Hawaii	12.78	+/- 3.02

Figure 5. Ratio of Marriage to Divorce by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2011

Rank	State	Ratio of marriage to divorce
1	Hawaii	3.32
2	North Dakota	2.86
3	Utah	2.15
4	Washington, DC	2.15
5	Wyoming	2.11
6	Wisconsin	2.08
7	Minnesota	1.96
8	Nebraska	1.96
9	Delaware	1.92
10	California	1.92
11	Alaska	1.91
12	Massachusetts	1.91
13	Iowa	1.83
14	Vermont	1.82
15	South Carolina	1.80
16	New York	1.79
17	North Carolina	1.79
18	Colorado	1.78
19	Virginia	1.76
20	Illinois	1.75
21	Oklahoma	1.74
22	New Jersey	1.72
23	Washington	1.72
24	Arkansas	1.71
25	Pennsylvania	1.71
	US	1.68
26	Texas	1.67
27	Georgia	1.67
28	Indiana	1.67
29	Mississippi	1.67
30	Michigan	1.63
31	Louisiana	1.61
32	Ohio	1.60
33	Montana	1.57
34	Idaho	1.54
35	South Dakota	1.52
36	Kentucky	1.52
37	Arizona	1.51
38	Missouri	1.46
39	Nevada	1.45
40	Connecticut	1.45
41	Maryland	1.44
42	New Mexico	1.43
43	Tennessee	1.43
44	Maine	1.43
45	Florida	1.41
46	Kansas	1.41
47	West Virginia	1.39
48	Oregon	1.38
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50	Alabama	1.32
51	New Hampshire	1.09

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

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